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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,263	02/21/2002	Christian Moy	770P010693-US (PAR)	9851
2512	7590	10/18/2005	EXAMINER	
PERMAN & GREEN 425 POST ROAD FAIRFIELD, CT 06824			BASS, JON M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3639	

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/081,263	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MOY ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Jon Bass	<b>Art Unit</b> 3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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***Response to Amendment***

1. This is in response to an amendment filed on August 1, 2005 for patent letter filed on February 23, 2001. In the amendment, claims 1-12 are pending in this applications. No claims have been amended.

***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed on August 1, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
3. Applicant argues that the prior art fails to teach the inventive concept of disclosing a module that includes information about a sensor. Examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant's characterization of the prior arts inventive step. Mahmoodi in {column 2, lines 41-54, teaches that the invention has two modules in connection with a base module. The sub-module feeder includes sensors mounted, which become input devices to local input selection found, in {column 5, lines 6-8}. The sensors that are explained in this invention are able to detect position and location of objects or packages that come through the inserter. The microprocessor is an important silicon chip that has the capabilities to control and communicate with the other modules in adjacent module, found in {column 2, lines 49-50}.
4. Applicant argues that Mahmoodi fails to disclose or suggest a communication system where the module senses objects. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the

applicant's statement due to, Mahmoodi discloses having a microprocessor {Figure 1} that is capable of communicating with modules. The microprocessor is capable of controlling all digital devices and sending information throughout the system. The information can range from serial number, velocity or any other related information required.

5. Applicant argues that within the prior art Mahmoodi fails to mention specifics about the position sensor. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant's viewpoint on this concept because a sensor that is in conjunction with the system or machine has several different capabilities. The sensor or any sensor has the function or ability to be able to describe a specific position of the object at any given time or at any given distance. This is not a new concept. The microprocessor is at control of all systems functions.
6. Mahmoodi discloses modular inserter system that provides machines, which are configured by combining modules, [{abstract}]. Each module containing a microprocessor for controlling the modules as part of the control systems for the machine.
7. The rejection stands with Mahmoodi. Mahmoodi's invention relates directly to the pending invention. Mahmoodi's inventive concept encompasses modules and sensors. In

claim 1, Mahmoodi discloses the communication functions between the modules and the machine incorporates the sensor as a vital part of the invention.

8. For all the above reasons stated, the rejection given by Mahmoodi remains. This is rejection hold true for all dependent claims that depend on claim 1.
9. Applicant argues that the prior art by Mahmoodi and Davies fail to teach the inventive concept of memory within the module that stores distance information between the sensors. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant's motions toward the characterization of the inventive concept for the following reasons. Davies discloses in {column 4, lines 47-50}, that the sensor modules provides signals to the micro control system which are used to determine length and also distance and measure the gap.
10. For all the above reasons the rejection made stands. Mahmoodi combined with Davies' invention emulate a concept that defines a module that is capable of communicating data, information or distance to another module upon request. Therefore the rejection remains. All depending claims are also rejected due to the all the above reasons.
11. Below are the pending claims along with the rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. **Claims 1-5 are** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Susan Mahmoodi (US Patent Number 5,164,906) in referenced as Mahmoodi.

**As Per Claim 1:**

Mahmoodi discloses a modular system comprising, at least one module, a module sensor associated with each module adapted to sense objects fed to the module, (Fig 1, view of modular table top inserter; element 13, base-module, envelope feeder, element 22, additional modules can be added).

the one module including information on the distance between a position of the sensor and at least one edge of the module and a location of at least one other, (Fig 1, element 10 microprocessor which communicate with the module).

a communication system wherein said module senses objects being transported therein and the communication system is adapted to allow the module to communicate information including information related to events, velocity, and distance to another module, (Fig 1, element

10 microprocessor which communicate with the module).

**As Per Claim 2:**

Mahmoodi discloses the modular system including a second module mechanically coupled to the one module by an alignment plate, wherein the alignment plate includes at least one upstream socket mechanically mated with at least one downstream foot of the one module and at least one downstream socket mechanically mated with at least one upstream foot of the second module (col.2, lines 55-64, mechanically performing feed operation, in addition to transport, drive and control mechanisms. Also can be replaced and piggy backed on the upstream end of the 1<sup>st</sup> module.)

**As Per Claim 3:**

Mahmoodi discloses the modular system including the one module coupled to at least the one additional module wherein the communication system includes a bus node coupled to each modules processor system, wherein actors and sensors within each module are coupled to the processor system, wherein the bus node is connected via an outside bus segment to the bus node of an upstream module and coupled to a second end of the outside bus segment to the bus node of a downstream module, (col.2, lines 55-64, mechanically performing feed operation, in addition to transport, drive and control mechanisms. Also can be replaced and piggy backed on the up stream end of the 1<sup>st</sup> module.) and (Fig.3, element 12 and 110, coupled o the modules upstream end; Fig 4, element 10, local microprocessor; 220 coupled to a local data transfer bus

receiving inter-module signals; 222- local bus)

**As Per Claim 4 and 5:**

Mahmoodi discloses the modular system of claim 3 wherein a computer within one of the modules is coupled to the communication system as the host node, the host computer including a data memory for storing information that uniquely (a) identifies each authorized module within a system and (b) uniquely identifies the modules employed and (c) uniquely identifies the upstream to downstream positions occupied by each module as a condition for gaining access to the system, (col.4, lines 45-65, position sensors, key board input) and (col.4, lines 60-65, 232 program storage for control and RAM) and (220- receives the signal derived from serial interfaces bus through buffer) and ( Fig.4, element 228- controlling electromechanical components contained within module).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.



2. **Claims 6-12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Susan Mahmoodi et al. (US Patent Number 5,164,906) hereinafter referenced as Mahmoodi in further view of Brad Davies et al. (US Patent Number 5,956,051) referred to as Davies.

**As Per Claims 6 and 7:**

Mahmoodi discloses a modular franking machine but lacks the processing empty or filled envelopes into fully or partially finished mail pieces, the machine comprising, First and second envelope actors and sensors within at least first and second modules for moving envelopes along an envelope processing path through the modules and for sensing the location of an envelope within each module Memory within each module storing the distance between the sensors and at least one of the upstream and downstream ends of the module, the second module coupled downstream from the first module within the processing path, the second module including a processor system with memory for storing a table of data on each module including combinations of different modules, a computer including a processor and memory, for calculating and printing postage for each envelope fed through the machine and coupled to a system bus by a bus node controller wherein the host module includes information pertaining to each module within the machine to identify to the host bus module additions and removals of modules from a franking machine.

Davies teaches that first and second envelope actors and sensors within at least first and second modules for moving envelopes along an envelope processing path through the modules and for sensing the location of an envelope within each module Memory within each module storing the distance between the sensors and at least one of the upstream and downstream ends of

the module, the second module coupled downstream from the first module within the processing path, the second module including a processor system with memory for storing a table of data on each module including combinations of different modules, a computer including a processor and memory, for calculating and printing postage for each envelope fed through the machine and coupled to a system bus by a bus node controller wherein the host module includes information pertaining to each module within the machine to identify to the host bus module additions and removals of modules from a franking machine,[modules include a feeder assembly and retard which works cooperatively to separate envelopes and feed them (col.3, lines 64-64) and he also describes that a sensor includes modules for detecting envelopes, (col.4, lines 36-40)].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Mahmoodi inventions of sub-module feeder arrangement for an inserter method and system in conjunction with Davies mailing machine system and method to emulate an invention that deals with an additional sub-module and franking machine that is able to store data and print, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin [(col.3, lines 64-64) and (col.4, lines 36-40)].

**As Per Claim 8:**

Mahmoodi discloses a the modular franking machine but lacks wherein the broadcast are signals, telegrams, messages or status information.

Davies teaches a method and system wherein the broadcast are signals, telegrams, messages or status information, receiving inputs and communicating messages with the encoder (col.6, lines 25-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Mahmoodi inventions of the broadcast are signals, telegrams, messages or status information, to specifically relate to receiving inputs and communicating messages with the encoder, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin, (col.6, lines 25-30).

**As Per Claim 9:**

Mahmoodi discloses a modular franking machine but lacks wherein each module is capable of broadcasting information on the letter flowing through the modular system on a multimaster field bus.

Davies discloses a method and system, wherein each module is capable of broadcasting information on the letter flowing through the modular system on a multi-master field bus,(multiple print heads which increases the print zone with accurate encoding needs plus the describes the distance between the print heads, (col6, lines 1-7) and used for printing postage indicia (col.6, lines 65-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Mahmoodi system wherein each module is capable of broadcasting information on the letter flowing through the modular system on a multi-master field bus, to specifically relate to multiple print heads which increases the print zone with accurate encoding needs plus the describes the distance between the print heads, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin, (col6, lines 1-7) and (col.6, lines 65-67).

**As Per Claims 10, 11 and 12:**

Mahmoodi discloses a the modular franking machine but lacks wherein the information is position, velocity, length, weight or identifier data.

Davies discloses a method and system wherein the information is position, velocity, length, weight or identifier data, to specifically relate to sensor controller which is in operative communication with the sensor module (col.6, lines 20-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Mahmoodi system wherein said the information is position, velocity, length, weight or identifier data, to specifically relate to sensor controller which is in operative communication with the sensor module, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin, (col.6, lines 20-25).

***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

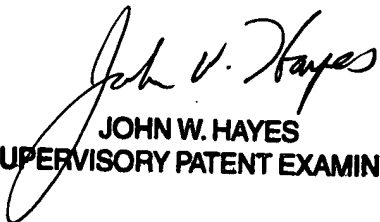
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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any concerns in regard to this communication, the examiner **Jon Bass** can be reached at (571) 272-6905 between the hours of 9-6pm Monday through Friday. The fax number where the application is being process is (703) 872-9306.

If for any reason the examiner is unavailable, the immediate supervisor, **John Weiss** can be reached at (571) 272-6812.

  
JOHN W. HAYES  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

